

SPEECH DELIVERED BY USAID/MOZAMBIQUE ACTING DIRECTOR, DONNA
STAUFFER, ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE GIRLS
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AT ADPP CIDADELA DAS CRIANÇAS
BAIRRO COSTA DO SOL – MAY 19, 2005

Her Excellency Governor of Maputo City,
Director of the City Women and Social Action Department,
Administrator of District 4
Members of the Government and the Direction of ADPP
Ambassador of the U.S.
Students of Cidadela das Crianças
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be part of the pleasant occasion this morning. You girls have a tremendous opportunity by being recipients of these scholarships. And I know you will study hard and do well.

I represent the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID as it is commonly known. USAID has been assisting Mozambique since 1984 with a wide variety of development programs. Currently, we have projects in four major sectors:

1. As part of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief that the Ambassador mentioned, USAID is promoting behavior change to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, providing care for those that are chronically ill, aiding orphans and vulnerable children, and providing follow-up home-based care for people on ARV treatment drugs.
2. Through our maternal and child health program we are increasing the use and availability of quality health services.
3. We are helping rural families increase their incomes by increasing agricultural productivity.
4. USAID is working with Mozambican business people and the government to improve the business environment so that jobs and exports also increase.
5. And finally we will work in five municipalities to help citizens of those cities participate more actively and constructively in managing their communities and to reduce corruption.

When you see our new logo (hold up logo), you will know that the people of the United States have provided funds to support these projects in Mozambique, because they would like you to have many opportunities to be successful when you grow up and become part of the work force.

I am especially proud of our program for orphans and vulnerable children where we are assisting over 63,000 children, over half of which are girls - just like you. The girls come from many villages, and have different backgrounds and speak different languages. But they have one thing in common – they want to have a better life. You scholarship recipients have been given the chance to better your future by doing well in school and finishing 7th grade.

I want to tell you a personal story about a scholarship that I received. When I finished secondary school, I was awarded a scholarship that enabled me to attend university. I did my very best at university and then was awarded another scholarship to attend graduate school. Those scholarships and the education I received gave me the opportunity to obtain this job at USAID and to realize my dream of assisting people across the world to improve their lives – by ending hunger and disease, increasing incomes, spreading democracy and improving the environment. For education opened many doors for me and I'm sure it will for you too. Education makes it possible for girls to achieve things previously impossible, and can make your dreams come true.